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Identical letters dated 8 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place at 0900 hours on 24 May 2000. A group of Iraqi fishermen on the boat *Zaman* (No. 1442/Basrah) were fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters in the Khawr Abd Allah area when two grey Kuwaiti naval craft flying the Kuwaiti flag, each with two enlisted men on board armed with automatic weapons, fired on the boat in an indiscriminate manner and hit its fuel tank. One of the enlisted men boarded the fishing boat and ordered the fishermen to assemble in the bow. He then searched it and threw the fish and the gas cylinders on board into the sea. They struck the fishermen and abused them verbally, alleging that the boat was inside Kuwaiti territorial waters. The fishermen were detained for more than 15 minutes, after which time the boat's papers and their identification documents were confiscated.

The action of the Kuwaiti authorities in entering our territorial waters to assault Iraqi fishermen there is a manifest breach of Iraq's sovereignty and integrity and an act of armed aggression that, by the most elementary standards governing relations between States, constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions that reject the threat or use of force against the integrity and independence of any country. We protest against the hostile conduct of the Kuwaiti authorities, and we urge you to intervene in order to prevent these violations, namely entry into Iraq's territorial waters and the perpetration of such acts of provocation. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves in full the inalienable right accorded to it by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions to take whatever measures are necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the material and other damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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